

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for considering the present application. In the Final Office Action dated August 27, 2003, claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 19-20 stand withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, and 12-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Mitra* (5,478,248). Applicants respectfully traverse.

For a proper §102 rejection, each and every element of the claims must be present in the reference. Claim 1 recites a connector assembly for a circuit board comprising a back shell having guide channels disposed within a first outside surface and a housing having guide arms extending from a second outside surface. The guide arms are sized to be received within the guide channel of the back shell to align the back shell and the housing during assembly. Applicants respectfully submit that these elements are not shown in the *Mitra* reference. The Examiner states that the *Mitra* reference shows "a back plane shell (9) having a guide channel 13 disposed within the first outside surface." Applicants have reviewed the *Mitra* reference and find that the *Mitra* reference is generally two connector portions, a male portion and a female portion. These are set forth in Fig. 1 as the two middle portions. Reference numeral 5 represents a substrate to which the insulating housing 4 is mounted. Another connector that cooperates with the first connector is shown at 9. Thus, 9 is not a back plane shell as described by the present invention. Rather, the reference numeral 9 refers to a cooperating connector that is used to mate with the insulating housing 4. The Examiner further goes on to state that 2 refers to a guide arm that extends from a second surface. Two refers to a contact pin and is located within the housing. Thus, applicants

respectfully submit that the contact pins 2 cannot be referred to as guide arms. As is described in claim 1, the guide arms extend from a second outside surface. It should also be noted that the back shell and the housing in the present invention form one half of a connector. This is completely different than that of the *Mitra* reference which shows two connector portions that are to be mated together. The Examiner points to reference numeral 11 of Fig. 1 of the *Mitra* reference as retraction features. Applicants respectfully submit that reference numeral 11 refers to ground contacts and not retraction features as the Examiner suggests. It should also be noted that the contact pins 2 that the Examiner suggests are guide arms are not formed from the housing. Therefore, because each and every element of the references are not illustrated, taught or suggested in the *Mitra* reference, applicants respectfully request the Examiner for reconsideration of claims 1-3, 5-6, and 12-17.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mitra*. Applicants respectfully traverse. Claim 4 is dependent on claim 1 and should be allowable for the same reasons set forth above.

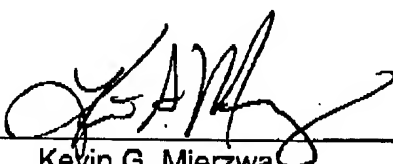
Claims 7-11 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mitra* in view of *Mouisie* (4,169,642). Applicants respectfully traverse. The *Mouisie* reference does not teach or suggest the missing elements of the *Mitra* reference. Because these claims are dependent on their allowable respective independent claims, these too should now be allowable.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicants submit that all rejections are now overcome. The applicants have added no new material to the application by these amendments. The application is now in condition for allowance

and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments which would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Please charge any fees required in the filing of this amendment to Deposit Account 502401.

Respectfully submitted,
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